

Merritt Ryan Brainard
26 Holly Street Milford CT

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing this letter in support of SB292, which is a bill that supports the tremendously important process of licensing individuals who practice behavior analytic services. In addition, I support the inclusion of language into the bill that allows for direct line staff such as paraprofessionals in schools or Registered Behavior Technicians (RBT) who work under a licensed Behavior Analyst or licensed Assistant Behavior Analyst. As a Lead Paraprofessional, who is working to become an RBT and who works with RBTs (Registered Behavior Technicians), working in a school for students diagnosed with mental health disorders and Autism Spectrum disorders, I am a strong supporter for the need of licensure to protect the access to services provided to the clients I work with as well as maintaining services over a period of time. The students I work with at Boys and Girls Village in Milford CT require extensive services to make meaningful gains towards becoming socially competent members of society in the future. Registered Behavior Technicians and paraprofessionals help with this tremendously.

As of the time of writing this letter there are 24 states that have already developed laws to oversee the licensure of board certified behavior analysts including all the surrounding states. There are 548 certified individuals in the state of Connecticut currently. The services these individuals provide is extensive and spans across the state. Implementing licensure would affect the services provided to all these clients and expand access to those who may not have qualified for services. As a Lead Paraprofessional I support the licensing of behavior analytic services in order to ensure the protection of services provided to the students I work with on a daily basis.

In summary, I support the bill SB292 and the inclusion of language that allows for licensed behavior analysts and assistant behavior analysts to supervise direct line staff implementing services.

Sincerely,

Merritt Ryan Brainard
Lead Paraprofessional